SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-2105 AUGUST 11, 1978
MATTHEW SCHNEIDER/LOS ANGELES

FILMS AND SOCIETY

ANNCR: NEXT WEEK (AUG. 14-18) GROUP OF FILMMAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WILL MEET IN A CONVERTED BEVERLEY HILLS, CALIFORNIA MANSION TO DISCUSS NO LESS WEIGHTY A SUBJECT THAN THE IMPACT OF CINEMA ON SOCIETY. VOA WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT MATTHEW SCHNEIDER HAS MORE IN THIS PREVIEW REPORT.

VOICE: THEY WILL CONVERGE ON LOS ANGELES FROM POINTS AROUND THE GLOBE FROM INDIA; SENEGAL; FRANCE. FROM EGYPT; BELGIUM; JAPAN AND POLAND, AND HERE IN THE U.S.

THE PLAN IS TO SEAT THE FILMMAKERS AROUND A CONFERENCE TABLE AT THE AMERICAN FILM INSTUTUTE'S WESTERN HEADQUARTERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO EXAMINE THE INFLUENCE THE FLICKERING IMAGES OF FILM HAVE HAD ON OUR LIVES.

THE ORGANIZER OF THE PROGRAM, SAM GROG OF THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE, TOLD VOA THAT THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE SYMPOSIUM IS ON HOW FILM REFLECTS -- AND AFFECTS THE CULTURAL LIFE OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

THE FILMMAKERS WILL EXPLORE THAT THEME FROM THREE DIRECTIONS: ONE IS HOW CINEMA AFFECTS OUR THOUGHTS, EMOTIONS AND ATTITUDES. DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE FILM MAKER IN SOCIETY IS THE SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENCA. AND FINALLY, THE PANELISTS WILL TRY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE OF CINEMA IN THE LIGHT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS SATTLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY USING HOLOGRAPHY.

VOICE: (CONT) MR. GROG EXPLAINED TO VOA THAT IN SEARCHING FOR PARTICIPANTS, THE ORGANIZERS SOUGHT FILMMAKERS WHO ARE NOT ONLY LUMANARIES, BUT WHO ARE ARTICULATE AND WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES IN A FORUM.

THOSE TAKING PART INCLUDE: LINDSAY ANDERSON OF ENGLAND, ALFONSO ARAU, MEXICO; YOUSSEF CHAHINE, EGYPT; ANDRE DELVAUX, BELGIUM; CLAUDE CANADA; JANUSC MAJEWSKI, POLAND. ALSO OUSMANE SEMBENE OF SENEGAL; MICHAEL CACOYANNIS, GREECA; MRINAL SEN, INDIA; CARLOS SAURA, SPAIN; AGNES VARDDA, FRANCE; AND NELSON PEREIRA DOS SANTOS, BRAZIL. THE SIX U.S. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE THE VETERAN DIRECTOR KING VIDOR AND ALAN PAKULA.

THE AIM OF THE ORGANIZERS WAS TO BRING TOGETHER A DIVERSE GROUP OF FILMMAKERS WHO COULD EXAMINE THEIR CRAFT AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIETY FROM MANY PERSPECTIVES. MR. GROG HOPES THE SYMPOSIUM, WHICH IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORRA
EATION (UNESCO) AND THE U.S. COMMISSION
ON UNESCO, WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CINEMA IN WORLD SOCIETY.

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